



## **North Carolina General Assembly**

### **Legislative Research Commission Advisory Subcommittee on Offshore Energy Exploration**

**May 13, 2009  
Auditorium  
Legislative Building**

#### **MINUTES**

#### **WELCOME AND ATTENDANCE**

The Legislative Research Commission Advisory Subcommittee on Offshore Energy Exploration met May 13, 2009 at 3 p.m. in the Auditorium of the State Legislative Building.

Co-Chairman Dr. James Leutze presided. In attendance in the Auditorium with Dr. Leutze were Co Chairman Dr. Doug Rader, Dr. Orlando Hankins, Mr. Edward Holmes, Ms. Jane Patterson, Dr. Jeff Warren, Mr. William Weatherspoon, Mr. Hugh Thompson, Dr. Laura Taylor, Mr. Paul Tine, Mr. Paul Sherman, Mr. John Monaghan and Edward Holmes. Present via telephone were Dr. Hans Pearl, Mayor Mac Montgomery, Mr. Wayland Sermons, Dr. Lawrence Cahoon, Dr. Nancy White, Dr. Jamie Brown Kruse, Dr. Christopher Martens, Dr. Rob Young. Subcommittee Counsel Duke Chen and Subcommittee Clerk Jessica Kozma Bennett were also present.

A copy of the meeting notice, agenda and visitor's sheet are included as attachments to the minutes as **Exhibits A, B, and C**, respectively.

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE BUSINESS**

Dr. Leutze began the meeting noting that because of the short turnaround between the last meeting and the drafting of the Interim Report, the staff did not have ample time to finish the April minutes; as such, the April minutes will not be adopted until the next meeting. Dr. Leutze then opened the floor for discussion regarding the Interim Report, asking members to be specific about amendments and to limit their comments to only the Interim Report.

## **ADOPTION OF INTERIM REPORT**

Dr. Martens offered the first amendment. On page 16, Dr. Martens motioned to amend the report by changing the existing language, which read, “Methane hydrate/caltrate resources exist, but are unknown as to extent or potential exploitability.” The language that was ultimately adopted read as follows, “Methane Hydrate/clathrate resources probably exist on the slope and rise, but their distribution and extent are unknown. Current information suggests limited exploitability as a potential energy resource.”

Dr. Young offered the next amendment. This amendment would replace the words “reasonable understanding” with “assessments” on Page 18, for Issues 4 and 5. Dr. Leutze asked for discussion on Dr. Young’s amendment, hearing none, he asked for a motion for adoption. Dr. Hankins made a motion for approval, seconded by Dr. Warren and the amendment was adopted by unanimous vote.

Mr. Monaghan offered the next amendment. This amendment added to Recommendation 1, “with a goal of keeping North Carolina’s options open for MMS until at least 2010.” Dr. Patterson asked if the amendment would have an impact on MMS deadlines. Dr. Kruse inquired of the necessity of the amendment and whether it would accomplish anything. Mr. Monaghan responded by saying it would clarify the intent of the first recommendation. The purpose, he continued, is to keep exploration options open. Mr. Weatherspoon then said that the Subcommittee was appointed by the leadership of the General Assembly, and as such the Subcommittee needed to look at “the whole scope and risks.” He then said that it would be ironic if the Subcommittee was working toward its charge but took premature action. He added that the Subcommittee needed to do the work that the leadership of the General Assembly asked them to do. Mr. Monaghan made a motion for adoption of the amendment, Mr. Weatherspoon seconded that motion. The amendment was read once more and then Dr. Leutze called for a vote. The amendment failed.

Dr. Leutze then asked for a motion to adopt the Interim Report. A motion was made by Dr. Warren and seconded by Dr. Hankins. The Interim Report was adopted by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

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Dr. James Leutze, Co-Chair

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Jessica Kozma Bennett, Committee Clerk

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Dr. Douglas N. Rader, Co-Chair